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MONITORING OF INTERNATIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

Third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared to assist the Commission for Social Development in conducting the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing on the tenth anniversary of the convening of the World Assembly on Ageing and of the adoption of the Plan of Action. The first review and appraisal was conducted in 1985 and the second was conducted in 1989. In its resolution 42/51, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to monitor progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action through the quadrennial review and appraisal process.

The present report is based on replies to questionnaires sent to Member States, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and selected international non-governmental organizations. It presents an overview (a) of the major findings of the analysis of those replies and (b) of the impact of population ageing, especially in developing countries. International and regional achievements in the field of ageing are discussed and tasks for the decade ahead are delineated. The implementation of the Plan of Action at the national, regional and international levels is explored. Finally, recommendations in the form of global and national targets for implementing the Plan of Action are listed.

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INTRODUCTION

1. In the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 1/ adopted by consensus by the World Assembly on Ageing in 1982, it was recommended that the Commission for Social Development should review the implementation of the Plan of Action every four years and should make proposals for updating it as considered necessary. In its resolution 37/51, the General Assembly endorsed the Plan of Action and requested the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission for Social Development, to review the implementation of the Plan of Action every four years and to transmit its findings to the General Assembly. The first review and appraisal was conducted in 1985 (see the report of the Secretary-General on that subject (E/1985/6 and Corr.1)) and the second review and appraisal was conducted in 1989 (see the report of the Secretary-General on that subject (E/1989/13)). In its resolution 42/51, the General Assembly reaffirmed its endorsement of the Plan of Action and requested the Secretary-General, through the Commission, to continue to monitor progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action through the quadrennial review and appraisal process.

2. The present report has been prepared to assist the Commission in conducting the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the Plan of Action. As in the second review and appraisal, questionnaires based on the 62 recommendations of the Plan of Action were sent in May 1992 to Governments, United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations. For the second review and appraisal, 59 replies to the questionnaires were received. For the third review and appraisal, 77* replies to the questionnaires were received from various countries and areas (58 from developing countries and areas and 19 from developed countries and areas), 14 were received from United Nations entities and 23 were received from non-governmental organizations (see annex). The present report presents an overview of findings based on the replies to the 1992 questionnaires and on other information available to the Secretariat. It also presents a set of priority measures to deal with ageing issues and concerns.

3. The third quadrennial review and appraisal takes place on the tenth anniversary of the convening of the World Assembly on Ageing. The World Assembly and the resulting Plan of Action called worldwide attention to the ageing of the world's population. The tenth anniversary presents an opportunity to assess global, national and community-level progress in and obstacles to the implementation of the Plan of Action since its adoption and to make recommendations to further its implementation.

I. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

4. The central conclusion of the first review and appraisal was that although considerable awareness of ageing was evident in many parts of the world, concrete policies and programmes to meet the needs of older persons had remained severely limited. The second review and appraisal arrived at a similar

*Of the 77 countries and areas whose replies were received in time to be considered in the third review and appraisal, 72 had completed the questionnaire according to the instructions so that their replies could be analysed in the present report.

conclusion. While some progress had been made in a few parts of the world, at the global level it appeared that little progress had been made in implementing the Plan of Action. The world's aged population had continued to grow rapidly compared with other population groups, but responsive policies and programmes had remained insufficient. The Plan of Action was based on the assumption that the issue of population ageing was one that countries could anticipate. In reality, far from anticipating the opportunities and needs of ageing populations, global and national responses had not even kept pace with the ageing of their populations (E/1989/13, paragraph 3).

5. The third review and appraisal has revealed evidence that the ageing of populations continues to receive considerable attention from the international community, government authorities and non-governmental organizations. The findings of the third review and appraisal, however, like those of the first and second, suggest that translating that growing awareness of the consequences of ageing into action-oriented policies and programmes has remained difficult. Implementing the Plan of Action in a manner that provides the infrastructure and programmes necessary to meet its specific objectives appears a daunting task, especially for developing countries.

6. The implementation of the Plan of Action at the national level depends in the first instance on the availability and functioning of a national infrastructure to support age-related policies and programmes. The impression of infrastructure that emerges from the third review and appraisal is one of hope. A significant number of countries (93) have set up national coordinating mechanisms on ageing, the most basic body for coordinating policies and programmes on ageing at the national level. 2/ Over two thirds of the countries participating in the third review and appraisal reported that they had multiple non-governmental organizations of and/or for the elderly. And nearly two thirds of the Governments had promoted a national day of the elderly and had promulgated either the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/91, or other legislation on the rights of the elderly.

7. In at least one third of the reporting countries, mostly the developing ones, there is no identifiable national coordinating body for ageing. And in only one half of the countries is there a national plan of action on ageing or a country-based research or training centre to deal with issues related to ageing. National directories of organizations concerned with ageing and aged persons are reported to be almost non-existent. In all cases, less developed countries have continued to lag significantly behind developed countries.

8. Governments and non-governmental organizations have shown a commitment to national development planning. They have focused principally on the potential costs of an ageing population, as measured by future costs of pensions, care for frail elderly persons and the changing age structure of the workforce. Where the aged have been seen as participants in development, the major focus has been on expanding volunteer and intergenerational activities. While there has been some recognition that the aged can be integrated into development by expanding income-generating activities, employment training and placement, and participation in the planning of services, such activities have received limited attention from Governments and non-governmental organizations.

9. Health care for an ageing population is a growing concern in many countries. While most countries have been promulgating the "Health for All" campaign of the World Health Organization (WHO), many have been having a

difficult time translating that campaign into practice. Health-care services specifically designed to deal with the needs of the elderly, together with geriatric training, are available in developed countries. In developing countries, where such services and training are beginning to be promulgated, the growing demand is far from being met. Only one third of the developing countries that submitted replies to the questionnaire reported that health service specifically designed for the elderly was available. Home health care was available in one fifth of those countries, but for only about 40 per cent of the population. And there was geriatric training available for nurses, physicians and social workers in only one half of the reporting developing countries.

10. Issues related to the housing and environment of elderly persons have received limited attention from Governments and non-governmental organizations, particularly in developing countries. Only one third of the participating developing countries reported having housing policies for the elderly. Housing and related transportation programmes are limited in developing countries, almost no programmes being available beyond the improvement of public facilities for the elderly and the reduction of transportation fares.

11. As noted in the report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal (E/1989/13, paragraphs 52-53), as populations age, Governments often turn to the family as the panacea for meeting the needs of the elderly. But given the increasing economic, social, political and structural pressures on the family, especially in developing countries, great numbers of families are faced with the difficult, and in some cases impossible, task of meeting their most immediate needs. Taking on the responsibility of providing care to a growing number of frail elderly members can stretch the family beyond its ability to cope and endure. In the third review and appraisal, Governments reported limited programme activity to support the continued integration of the elderly into family life. That has been especially true in developing countries. Where available, that support has focused on social services for families providing care and on educational programmes to promote positive roles for elderly family members. Older women appear to be especially vulnerable, as few countries reported the availability of measures to support elderly women and widows. As stated in the report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal, "it is difficult to escape the conclusion that what is really being asked for here is that poor families should lower their expectations of receiving any assistance, let alone any specialized care for their dependants" (E/1989/13, paragraph 60).

12. Where families cannot provide or are not available to provide sufficient care for elderly persons, social welfare becomes an important safety net. While all the participating developed countries reported the availability of social welfare services for the elderly, only about one half of the participating developing countries reported having such services as senior centres, meal programmes and home help. The majority of the participating countries reported having institutional facilities for the elderly. A significant minority of the participating countries reported that plans had been made to limit further construction of such facilities.

13. Nearly all the countries reported having either a fixed or flexible retirement age; however, less than one fourth of the participating developing countries reported the availability of a universal pension or social security scheme. In countries with limited schemes, pensions or social security

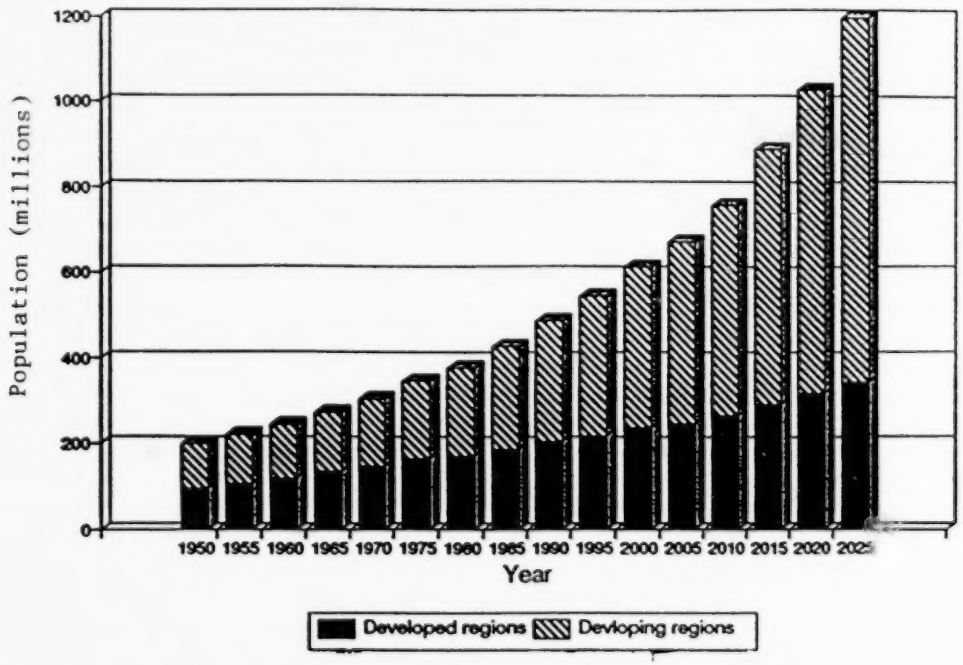
coverage is available principally to government workers, veterans and workers in the private or commercial sector. Programmes to support the employment of elderly persons or to help in developing income-generating projects were reported to be available in approximately one third of the countries. Minimum benefits to meet the essential needs of the most vulnerable of the elderly and protection against age discrimination were reported to be available in few of the developing countries.

14. Although education and literacy are often seen as basic rights, only between one third and one half of the countries reported that educational opportunities were available to the elderly. About one half of the countries reported that there was formal programming to utilize the elderly as teachers and/or purveyors of knowledge and cultural heritage. Where there was education on ageing, the focus was on the health and social needs of the elderly, the elderly as a resource, and intergenerational solidarity.

II. THE AGEING OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION

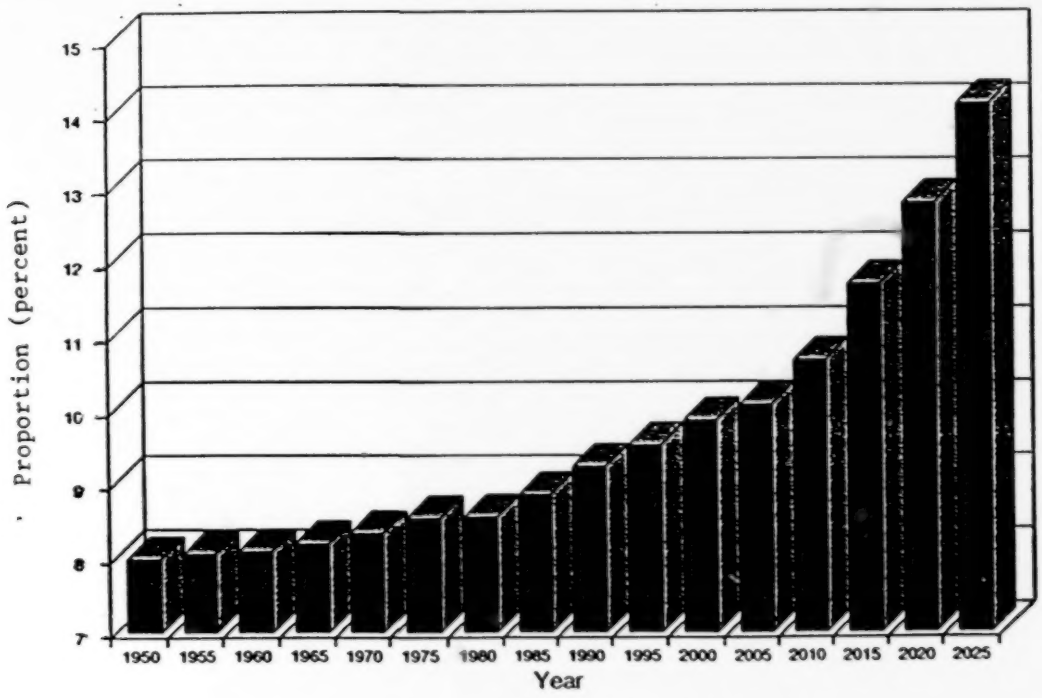
15. The third review and appraisal is taking place in the midst of a demographic revolution that has overtaken the world in the last half of the twentieth century and that will continue well into the twenty-first century (see figures I and II). The growth in the numbers and proportions of elderly persons, described in detail in The World Ageing Situation 1991 3/ is without historical precedent.

Figure I. World population aged 60 and over, 1950-2025



Source: United Nations Population Division, Sex and Age 1950-2025 (The 1992 Revision), diskette.

Figure II. Proportion of the world population aged 60 and over, 1950-2025



Source: United Nations Population Division, Sex and Age 1950-2025 (The 1992 Revision) diskette.

16. Since the adoption of the Plan of Action in 1982, over 100 million elderly people have been added to the global population. Nearly 70 per cent of those persons live in countries in the developing world. In the next 10 years, an average of 1 million persons a month will become 60 years old. 4/ By the year 2001, there will be over 125 million more elderly persons. The increase in the number of persons aged 80 and over will be the most striking: between 1980 and the year 2001 their number will increase by 54 per cent. In that same period, the overall population is expected to increase by only 29 per cent.

17. The growth of elderly populations around the world, with some significant variations between countries and between regions, as well as gender-related variations, has resulted from parallel developments such as decreased fertility rates, reductions in infant and maternal mortality rates and improvements in nutrition, health care and education. Until recently, population ageing has been a major issue for developed countries. Now population ageing and the demographic revolution are rapidly becoming major issues for some developing countries. Approximately 70 per cent of the increase in the world's elderly population is occurring in developing countries. The increase in the world's elderly population is expected to occur principally in developing countries.

18. The demographic revolution is occurring in the midst of equally compelling political and social transitions. Since the World Assembly on Ageing was convened in 1992, political and social changes have taken place throughout the world, but with particular force in southern Africa, western Asia and central and eastern Europe. The 1980s have been described as the "lost decade" for

development, 5/ a decade in which there was greater polarization between rich and poor nations and between rich and poor individuals within nations. In such an environment, the needs and potentials related to population ageing in developing countries and in countries in transition present major challenges and, if dealt with creatively, clear opportunities.

III. CHALLENGES OF AGEING: NATIONAL RESPONSE AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

19. In the third review and appraisal, it appears that issues related to population ageing are becoming more and more of a concern to government authorities, as well as to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. At the national level, there are increasing numbers of national coordinating mechanisms on ageing, non-governmental organizations of and/or for the elderly, and national development plans that often deal with the problems of population ageing and take advantage of the opportunities it presents. There is also ample evidence, however, that translating such concerns into action-oriented programmes is a much more difficult challenge. Health and social services, educational opportunities, support for families providing care, support for elderly women, and income security or even minimum benefit packages for the poorest of the elderly are often woefully lacking, especially in developing countries. As in the second review and appraisal, it appears that, given the above-mentioned political, social and economic concerns, many countries, particularly developing countries, have the good will and desire to accommodate an expanding ageing population but are overtasked to provide a minimum response, let alone a response that adequately meets the goals and aspirations of the World Assembly on Ageing.

20. At the international level, events leading up to and marking the tenth anniversary have demonstrated that a new and expanded awareness of ageing has emerged since the second review and appraisal was conducted. The growing interest and commitment to ageing are evidenced by major initiatives at the international and regional levels, such as those presented below.

21. International Institute on Ageing. The International Institute on Ageing was established in Malta in 1988 to conduct research on demographic and developmental questions, to publish research and training materials and to hold seminars and workshops for persons interested in ageing issues from countries throughout the world.

22. African Society of Gerontology. The African Society of Gerontology was established in 1989 to promote regional awareness of ageing issues, to assist governmental and non-governmental organizations in developing services for the aged, to assist educational institutions in developing curricula and training with respect to ageing, to establish links between research and policy formulation and to raise funds to support those activities.

23. Banyan Fund Association: A World Fund for Ageing. The Banyan Fund Association: A World Fund for Ageing was established in 1991 under the patronage of the United Nations to supplement and expand project funds available through the Trust Fund for Ageing, to inform the global donor community of the needs and opportunities of individual and population ageing and to support projects that empower older persons, thereby promoting the implementation of the Plan of Action.

24. International Day for the Elderly. On 14 December 1990, the General Assembly, in its resolution 45/106, designated 1 October as International Day for the Elderly. That annual event was celebrated in numerous cities and countries throughout the world in 1991 and 1992. At the international level, it was commemorated at United Nations Headquarters and the United Nations Office at Vienna.

25. United Nations Principles for Older Persons. On 16 December 1991, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/91, adopted the United Nations Principles for Older Persons. Those 18 principles, designed to "add life to the years that have been added to life", are aimed directly at promoting independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity for older persons throughout the world. They provide guidelines that, once implemented, will assist older persons in leading full and productive lives while ensuring the support necessary to maintain or attain a satisfactory quality of life in old age.

26. Global targets on ageing. In its resolution 46/91, the General Assembly also recommended that the United Nations define targets on ageing to provide a pragmatic focus for the broad and ideal goals of the Plan of Action. Using 1992 as a year of departure, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat developed a draft set of eight global targets on ageing for the year 2001 and 38 national targets on ageing (see the report of the Secretary-General on global targets on ageing for the Year 2001: a practical strategy (A/47/339)). The targets were subsequently adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/86.

27. National targets on ageing. In its resolution 46/91, the General Assembly urged Member States to identify their specific national targets on ageing for the year 2001. On 16 December 1991, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/94, requested Member States to consider setting appropriate and, where feasible, quantifiable national targets on ageing for the year 2001 and called upon them to take the occasion of the third review and appraisal to plan ahead, setting national targets on ageing for the year 2001. A recommended set of national targets were developed (A/47/339), building on the areas of concern outlined in the Plan of Action, such as health, housing, family, education, social welfare, income security and infrastructure. Like the global targets, they serve as guideposts, instruments and practical strategies for the implementation of the Plan of Action.

28. International Conference and Proclamation on Ageing. The "capstone" of the tenth anniversary celebration was when the General Assembly, in accordance with its resolution 46/91, devoted four plenary meetings, that is, two working days (15 and 16 October 1992), at its forty-seventh session to an international conference on ageing and to celebrate on an appropriate global scale the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action. In its resolution 47/5, the General Assembly adopted the Proclamation on Ageing, in which it urged the international community to support the practical strategies for reaching the global targets on ageing for the year 2001 (A/47/339); it also urged the support of national initiatives on ageing in the context of national cultures and conditions. Also in the Proclamation, the General Assembly decided to observe the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons.

29. The Plan of Action and the United Nations Principles for Older Persons provide a general framework for developing policies and programmes at the international and national levels. Both serve as policy statements and are

intended to support the development of practical strategies for implementation at the global and national levels. A further step in the implementation process has been the development of global and national targets on ageing and the Proclamation on Ageing. The targets set out a series of practical strategies to facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action and the United Nations Principles for Older Persons at the global, national and community levels. Detailed and concrete action in the form of the global and national targets are suggested in the conclusions and recommendations of the present report. The Proclamation on Ageing serves as a declaration of commitment by Member States to support the implementation of the Plan of Action and the United Nations Principles for Older Persons through global and national initiatives.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

A. Infrastructure

30. The Plan of Action is addressed, in the first instance, to the Governments of Member States. Accordingly, the primary concern of the Plan of Action relates to governmental activities that support the building of national infrastructure to implement ageing-related policies and programmes. A central element in that infrastructure is the availability of national coordinating machinery or mechanisms on ageing. In the Plan of Action, 1/ it is recommended that such national machinery should include representatives of the Government, non-governmental organizations and organizations for and by the elderly.

31. In 1982, some 70 national coordinating mechanisms were in operation. By 1985, there were 84 such mechanisms, of which 49 received broad institutional support and 35 were "focal points", a single office or officer responsible for questions on ageing. At present, there are 93 such mechanisms. 2/

32. Of the 72 countries and areas whose replies have been analysed in the present report, 47 reported the existence of a national mechanism to develop and coordinate policies and programmes related to ageing (see table 1). Fourteen of the 16 reporting developed countries indicated that a national coordinating mechanism was in place. Approximately 60 per cent of the developing countries reported the availability of a national coordinating mechanism on ageing (see table 1). Representatives of non-governmental organizations were included in 32 of the national coordinating mechanisms: in two thirds of the developed countries that submitted replies and in one half of the developing countries.

33. A second indicator relating to infrastructure is the presence of national programmes or plans of action on ageing. In slightly over one half of the 72 countries included in the analysis, the Governments had adopted national plans or programmes of action on ageing (see table 1). In 32 of the countries reporting such national plans of action, the International Plan of Action on Ageing had been incorporated into those national plans of action. In some countries, such as Japan, the national plan of action included a ministerial council responsible for policy formulation, implementation of the plan and policies, and coordination, monitoring and evaluation of activities related to ageing. In addition, it included a set of policy guidelines, together with a statement of basic principles, employment and income security systems, health and welfare systems, a housing and living environment system and the promotion of research and development.

Table 1. Infrastructure on ageing, based on replies to the 1992 questionnaires on the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing

Reporting issue	Replies from all countries and areas			Replies from developed countries and areas			Replies from developing countries and areas		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
National mechanism on ageing available	47	72	65	14	16	87	33	56	59
Government adopted a national plan or programme of action on ageing	37	72	51	12	16	75	25	56	45
Non-governmental organizations of and/or for the elderly	59	72	82	16	16	100	43	56	77
Research centres dealing with ageing	34	72	47	13	16	81	21	56	38
Training centres and/or programmes dealing with ageing	31	72	43	11	16	69	20	56	36
Governmental dissemination of reports on ageing	20	72	28	12	16	75	8	56	14
Government designated October 1 as National Day for the Elderly	31	72	43	7	16	44	24	56	43
Government designated a day other than October 1 as National Day for the Elderly	13	72	19	3	16	19	10	56	18
Government promulgated the United Nations Principles for Older Persons	18	71	25	6	16	38	12	55	22
Government promulgated other legislation on rights of the elderly	27	71	38	8	16	45	19	55	35

34. The great majority (59) of the 72 countries reported the presence of non-governmental organizations of and/or for the elderly. While every developed country was able to identify such organizations, non-governmental organizations of and/or for the elderly were not available in one fourth of the developing countries (see table 1). When such organizations were available in developing countries, their number was reported to range from 2 to 12.

35. Thirty-four of the countries reported having research centres dealing with the ageing of populations. Slightly over one third of the developing countries participating in the third review and appraisal were able to identify such research centres (see table 1), compared with only four such countries in the second review and appraisal. While the focus of the research of those centres is not clear, the majority of the centres appear to be university-based.

36. To ensure that health and social service professionals, as well as family members, who work with the elderly have adequate training, many countries have developed geriatric and gerontological training centres. Over one third (31) of the countries that submitted replies on the third review and appraisal acknowledged the availability of such training centres. While the majority were in developed countries, over one third of the developing countries had national training centres (see table 1). Those training centres were both university-based and independent. The growth in regional and global training centres, such as the International Institute on Ageing in Malta, and non-governmental organizations devoted to in-country training, such as HelpAge International, are significant developments in efforts to increase the number of persons trained to work with ageing individuals and populations.

37. The vast majority of the countries reported the availability of national data collection systems that included age- and gender-specific information; however, the Government had regularly produced and disseminated reports on the national ageing situation in less than one third of the countries. Only 14 per cent of the developing countries had produced reports on the ageing situation (see table 1). Few Governments, whether of developed or developing countries, had produced national directories of public and private organizations concerned with ageing and/or services and opportunities for the aged.

38. In 31 countries, 1 October had been designated as national day for the elderly. In 13 other countries another day had been designated. Thus, in nearly two thirds of the countries, both developed and developing, there was a national day for older persons (see table 1). In a few countries, a week or a month had been dedicated to older persons.

39. Only 18 of the 71 countries that reported on the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, including less than one fourth of the developing countries, had promulgated the principles. Twenty-seven countries had promulgated other legislation on the rights of the elderly (see table 1); for example, Turkey had supported social security and health-care legislation that ensured aged pensioners the right to health care.

40. Ten years after the convening of the World Assembly on Ageing, at least one third of the reporting countries had no identifiable national coordinating body or network for ageing. At most, only one half of the countries had adopted a national plan and programme of action on ageing or had country-based research or training centres to deal with issues related to ageing. There were national data systems available, but reports on the national ageing situation were not generally being produced. National directories of

organizations concerned with ageing and aged persons were reported to be almost non-existent. In all cases, developing countries as a whole continued to lag significantly behind developed countries. Awareness of ageing appears to be growing, but development of the infrastructure necessary to support the translation of that awareness into action has remained a painfully slow process.

B. Ageing and development

41. As mentioned in the Plan of Action, 1/ policies and programmes for the aged should seek to achieve a balance between humanitarian and developmental considerations. In that context, the third review and appraisal has included an investigation of how countries have dealt with the developmental implications of individual and population ageing.

42. Two thirds of all reporting countries and three fourths of developing countries reported the existence of a nationwide development plan. Less than one half of all the countries with development plans dealt with individual and population ageing in those plans. Another 15 countries, including a larger percentage of the developed than of the developing countries, dealt with ageing in other forms of nationwide planning (see table 2).

43. There is considerable evidence that Governments, in both developed and developing countries, have been studying the impact of population ageing on future costs of pensions, future costs of institutional care and the future size of the workforce. At the time of the second review and appraisal, such studies were undertaken almost exclusively in developed countries. While some attention was focused on consumption patterns and savings and investment by the aged, it was at a much lower level than the attention given to future costs of supporting pensioned and institutionalized elderly persons (see table 2).

44. Governments reported that they were involved with programmes that supported the integration of the elderly into mainstream development activities. Over one half of the countries were actively supporting elderly volunteer programmes and intergenerational activities. In developing countries, those programmes were complemented by support for integrating the elderly into income-generating activities and involving the elderly in the planning of services. Only one third of the countries reported the availability of programmes supporting employment training and placement services for elderly persons. Other types of development mainstreaming programmes reported include the involvement of elderly persons in sport, recreational and cultural activities (see table 2).

45. In many countries, non-governmental organizations also have a role in promoting the integration of the elderly into mainstream development activities. Interestingly, in the third review and appraisal, non-governmental organizations were reported to be less involved in such development activities than Governments. Where they had promoted the integration of the elderly in development, in no more than one half of the reporting countries, the focus had been on elderly volunteer programmes and intergenerational activities. In about one third of the countries, non-governmental organizations were reported to be involved in income-generating and employment training and placement activities (see table 2).

46. It is apparent that the Governments and non-governmental organizations are concerned about national development planning. The appreciation of Governments for elderly persons' impact on and role in development is less clear. The focus of Governments and non-governmental organizations has been

Table 2. Impact of ageing on development, based on replies to the 1992 questionnaires on the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing

Reporting issue	Replies from all countries and areas			Replies from developed countries and areas			Replies from developing countries and areas		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
Nationwide development plan dealing specifically with ageing	25	72	35	6	16	38	19	56	34
No development plan: ageing dealt with in some other form of nationwide planning	15	72	21	7	16	44	8	56	14
Government identified impact of ageing									
On future size of workforce	39	72	54	15	16	94	24	56	43
On future costs of pensions	51	72	71	15	16	94	36	56	64
On future costs of institutional care	41	72	57	14	16	88	27	56	48
On consumption and its structure	26	72	36	10	16	63	16	56	29
On savings and investment	27	72	38	10	16	63	17	56	31
Government-supported programmes to integrate the elderly									
Income-generating activities	34	72	47	8	16	50	26	56	46
Employment training and placement	23	72	32	8	16	50	15	56	27
Intergenerational activities	40	72	56	11	16	69	29	56	52
Elderly volunteer programmes	43	72	60	12	16	75	31	56	55
Participation of the elderly in planning of services	30	72	42	8	16	50	22	56	39
Programmes developed by non-governmental organizations to integrate the elderly									
Income-generating activities	26	72	36	8	16	50	18	56	32
Employment training and placement	19	72	26	6	16	38	13	56	23
Intergenerational activities	34	72	47	12	16	75	22	56	39
Elderly volunteer programmes	36	72	50	11	16	31	25	56	45

principally on the potential costs of an ageing population, as measured by future costs of pensions, care for frail elderly persons and the changing age structure of the workforce. Where the elderly have been seen as participants in development, the major focus has been on expanding volunteer and intergenerational activities. While there has been some recognition that the elderly can be integrated into development through the expansion of income generation, employment training and placement, and participation in the planning of services, those activities have been given less emphasis by both Governments and non-governmental organizations.

C. Health and nutrition

47. In the Plan of Action, 1/ it was recognized that while population ageing represented a public health success for humanity, the increasing number of individuals living to advanced age, especially those who become frail and disabled with age, would make greater demands on the health services. In addition, it was recognized that quality health care meant more than the treatment of disease and disability; it must also support the aged, as well as other population groups, in leading independent, secure and dignified lives in their families and communities.

48. Governments have been very active in promulgating the WHO "Health for All" campaign. Sixty-five of 72 countries reported a "health for all" campaign. While nearly all the developed countries indicated that they had introduced a prevention and/or rehabilitation programme to deal with age-specific disorders, less than one half of the developing countries had done so (see table 3). Where such programmes had been introduced, they had focused on primary and secondary prevention.

Table 3. Health and nutrition for the elderly, based on replies to the 1992 questionnaires on the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing

Reporting issue	Replies from all countries and areas			Replies from developed countries and areas			Replies from developing countries and areas		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
Prevention and/or rehabilitation programme to deal with age-specific disorders	37	72	51	14	16	87	23	56	41
Health care for persons aged 60 and over	34	71	48	13	16	81	21	55	38
Home health care for the elderly	29	70	41	16	16	100	13	54	24
Geriatric training	45	72	62	16	16	100	29	56	52

49. Thirty-four countries reported the availability of health services specifically designed and available for persons 60 years of age and over. Such services were reported to be available in the great majority of the developed countries, compared with only slightly over one third of the developing countries (see table 3). Less than one fifth of all the countries reported services specifically designed for the very old (persons aged 80 and over). Where health services designed for older persons were available, they focused on acute care hospital services, primary health care and mental health services. About one fourth of the countries reported the availability of dental, eye and foot care for the elderly.

50. In providing health care to frail elderly persons, formal home care has become an important part of the system because it has allowed the aged to remain in their own homes. How available is such care? Every developed country reported that home health care was available to slightly over one half of the elderly population. In the developing countries, the situation was quite different: fewer than one fourth of the developing countries indicated that home health care was available to the elderly (see table 3).

51. Given the growing need for health care among the expanding elderly population, it is evident that geriatric training is becoming increasingly important in delivering quality care to older persons. All the developed countries acknowledged the availability of such training, compared with about one half of the developing countries (see table 3). Where such training was available, the principal recipients were nurses, physicians, social workers, volunteers and primary health workers. Family-care workers were identified least often as the recipients of such training.

52. Health care is obviously an important concern for many countries. The number of countries promulgating the WHO "Health for All" campaign testifies to this concern; however, it is evident that many countries are having a difficult time translating that ideal into practice for the elderly. Health-care services tailored to the needs of the elderly and geriatric training are available in developed countries. Developing countries, while beginning to develop services and training appropriate for an ageing population, are far from meeting the growing demand. For those countries, integrating health services for the elderly and geriatric training into existing governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as cooperating with regional training institutes, may provide a mechanism for expanding the availability of services and training to better meet the needs of older persons.

D. Housing and environment

53. Adequate living arrangements were identified in the Plan of Action 1/ as being essential to meeting the needs of an ageing population. While almost all the developed countries stated that they had a housing policy for the elderly, less than one third of the developing countries had such a policy (see table 4). The major objectives of those who had a housing policy for the elderly focused on integrated housing, housing adapted to enable the elderly to continue living in their own homes and special segregated housing for the elderly.

54. Governments reported that they had assumed major responsibility for activities aimed at providing housing and related support programmes. Less than one half of the Governments had supported programmes that included reduced

Table 4. Housing and environment for the elderly, based on replies to the 1992 questionnaires on the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing

Reporting issue	Replies from all countries and areas			Replies from developed countries and areas			Replies from developing countries and areas		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
Housing policy for the elderly	32	72	44	14	16	88	18	56	32
	Programme sponsor								
	Government			Non-governmental organization			Both Government and non-governmental organization		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
Programmes on housing or environment for the elderly									
Adaptation of family housing to facilitate needs of the elderly	18	72	25	9	72	13	7	72	10
Improvement of homes and public facilities	29	72	40	12	72	17	10	72	14
Public financing of housing	21	72	29	7	72	10	7	72	10
Establishment of boarding homes	27	72	38	21	72	29	14	72	19
Reduced transportation fares	28	72	39	7	72	10	4	72	6
Provision of transportation for the frail	15	72	21	11	72	15	7	72	10
Education of personal security in the home and the community	21	72	29	12	72	17	10	72	14
Coordination of housing with community services	19	72	26	10	72	14	8	72	11

transportation fares, improvement of public facilities, public financing of housing for the elderly and the establishment of boarding homes for the elderly (see table 4). Non-governmental organizations had been most active in establishing boarding homes. The provision of transportation for the elderly appears to have received the least attention from both Governments and non-governmental organizations.

55. It is obvious from the above discussion that issues related to housing and the environment have received limited attention from Governments and non-governmental organizations. There are almost no housing and related transportation programmes in developing countries beyond those for the improvement of public facilities for the elderly and the reduction of transportation fares.

E. Family

56. The most fundamental social institution in most societies is the family. The family traditionally has been the primary source of emotional nurturance and physical, social and economic support for its members, including the elderly. To assist families in fulfilling their obligations to all their members, Governments and non-governmental organizations often enter into supportive partnerships with families. In the report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal (E/1989/13, paragraph 59), it was noted that such partnerships were limited: only about one third of the reporting countries had any programmes in place to support the integration of the aged in families. In the third review and appraisal, it has been found that programmed activity in support of integrating the aged into families has continued to be quite limited. The developed countries reported the availability of social services to support the families of frail elderly persons, educational programmes for families caring for frail elderly persons and rewards for family caregiving. In the developing countries, the major focus, though only available in less than one third of the countries, was on social services to support caregiving families, on educational programmes to promote positive roles for the elderly in family life, on the training of family members to care for frail elderly persons, and on the provision of grants to promote multigenerational family-based income-generating projects. Limited programme support was available to reward family caregiving, for example, by providing tax exemptions or offering leave from work for persons caring for an elderly family member (see table 5).

57. Although women account for a large proportion of the elderly in almost all countries of the world, more than two thirds of the countries reported that no special measures had been adopted to support elderly women and widows (see table 5). The rationale behind such a lack of action often centres on the mainstreaming of women, that is, integrating them into existing programmes for older persons. The adequacy of such an approach is questionable, given the higher percentage of women in aged cohorts, the increased likelihood of their being widowed and the economic disadvantages that they endure.

58. To further promote the importance of the family for all of society, the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/82, designated 1994 as the International Year of the Family. The International Year of the Family will provide an opportunity for Governments to explore the place of the aged in family life, as well as the needs placed on families by an expanding ageing population. Slightly over one third of the reporting countries indicated that ageing issues had been integrated into their preparations for the Year (see table 5).

Table 5. Families and the elderly, based on replies to the 1992 questionnaires on the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing

Reporting issue	Replies from all countries and areas			Replies from developed countries and areas			Replies from developing countries and areas		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
Programmes to integrate the elderly into the family									
Grants to encourage multigenerational family-based income-generating projects	16	70	23	4	15	27	12	55	22
Educational programmes promoting roles of the elderly in the family	24	70	34	5	15	33	19	55	35
Loans for dwelling improvement for families with elderly persons	11	70	16	7	15	47	4	55	7
Education of family members to support the elderly	23	70	33	9	15	60	14	55	26
Social services for families with elderly persons	35	70	50	13	15	87	22	55	40
Rewards for family caregiving	17	70	25	9	15	64	8	55	15
Government adopted measures to support elderly women	22	72	31	6	16	38	16	56	29
Ageing issues integrated into preparations for the International Year of the Family	28	71	39	7	16	44	21	55	38

F. Social welfare

59. As populations age, they often have an increased need for social welfare services. In the Plan of Action, it is recommended that social welfare services should be community-based and should provide a broad range of services that enables older persons to live as independently as possible in their own homes and communities. 1/ Are such supportive social welfare services available to the elderly?

60. Virtually all developed countries indicated that they had social welfare services specifically designed for persons aged 60 and over. In the second review and appraisal, the range of social services for the elderly was very limited. In the third review and appraisal, however, nearly two thirds of the developing countries reported the availability of such services (see table 6). The majority of the countries in which such services were available reported that they also had services specifically designed for the rural elderly.

61. The most frequently provided social welfare services for the elderly were senior centres, clubs for the elderly, food and clothing commodities, friendly visitors, congregate meals and home help. Telephone reassurance systems and transportation services were the least frequently provided services. In approximately one half of the developed countries, respite care, friendly visitors and telephone reassurance systems were also available (see table 6). Governments played a more central role in the development of senior centres and transportation services; however, non-governmental organizations were more influential in promoting clubs for the elderly, friendly visitor programmes, home help services and meals programmes.

62. As in the second review and appraisal, all developed countries and two thirds of the developing countries reported that institutional facilities were available or planned for the elderly (see table 6). The average number of facilities reported by the developed countries was over three times as large as the average number reported by the developing countries. But in the developing countries where institutions for the elderly were available, a slightly higher average percentage (8.2 per cent) of the elderly resided in such institutions, compared with the figure for developed countries (7.5 per cent). For those with institutional facilities for older persons, nearly one half planned to expand those facilities; one third of the developed and one fourth of the developing countries planned to restrict further construction of institutional facilities. Over two thirds of the reporting countries had made plans for the innovative designing or reorganizing of such facilities.

63. The majority of the Governments supported the strengthening and integration of health and social services for the elderly. Nearly all the Governments in developed countries and about two thirds of those in developing countries reported working with non-governmental organizations in providing services for the elderly. Governments assisted voluntary organizations in planning, provided them with financial assistance, and coordinated services to the elderly provided by professional workers and volunteers.

G. Income security and employment

64. The availability and distribution of financial resources to meet the basic needs of the elderly contribute significantly to the quality of life. As noted in the report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal (E/1989/13, paragraph 12), developed countries have come close to

Table 6. Welfare for the elderly, based on replies to the 1992 questionnaires on the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing

Reporting issue	Replies from all countries and areas			Replies from developed countries and areas			Replies from developing countries and areas		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
Social welfare services for the elderly	49	71	69	15	16	94	34	55	62
Institutional facilities for the elderly	54	72	75	16	16	100	38	56	68

	Service sponsor								
	Government			Non-governmental organization			Both Government and non-governmental organization		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
Type of social welfare service									
Senior and/or day-care centres	35	72	49	29	72	40	25	72	35
Meals in group setting	18	72	25	18	72	25	13	72	18
Clubs for the elderly	23	72	32	29	72	40	17	72	35
Friendly visitors	19	72	26	25	72	35	11	72	15
Telephone contact systems	13	72	18	14	72	19	8	72	11
Escort and/or transportation services	14	72	19	12	72	17	7	72	10
Respite care	15	72	21	14	72	19	10	72	14
Food and clothing commodities	23	72	32	22	72	31	13	72	32
Home-delivered meals	13	72	18	14	72	19	10	72	14
Home help	17	72	24	20	72	28	12	72	17
Laundry services	12	72	17	11	72	15	7	72	10

achieving universal income security coverage through generalized social security schemes attached to retirement. In developing countries where subsistence living is often the rule rather than the exception, income security for all age groups, including the elderly, remains a central concern. In such countries, retirement associated with income security has been viewed as a privilege of a few rather than an opportunity for the aged.

65. In the third review and appraisal, nearly all the countries reported that they had established retirement as a right, and sometimes an obligation, of all or portions of the elderly. Forty-five of 71 countries reported a fixed retirement age; in some of those countries it was compulsory and in others it was not. Twenty-five countries reported the retirement age to be flexible (see table 7). Even in countries where the retirement age was fixed and compulsory, it was reported to vary greatly depending on gender and sector. For example, in Turkey, the retirement age for civil servants with 20-25 years of service was 50 for men and 45 for women; the retirement age for government workers and for agricultural workers was two and five years less, respectively, for both men and women. Less than one third of the reporting Governments expected modifications in retirement ages over the next few years.

66. Nearly all the countries reported the presence of retirement policies; but what about income security measures? One approach was to provide income security through pension and/or social security schemes. Nearly two thirds of the developed and less than one fourth of the developing countries reported that they had universal coverage schemes. Approximately one half of the developed countries and over two thirds of the developing countries reported that some limited coverage was available (see table 7). Despite the fact that universal coverage might obviate the need for limited coverage, some countries reported the availability of both. By comparison, in the second review and appraisal, slightly over one half of the developing countries reported universal or limited pension and/or social security coverage.

67. In the countries with limited coverage, the sectors generally covered included government workers, veterans, and workers in the private sector. The sectors with the least reported coverage included agricultural workers, elderly women and disabled elderly persons. Those findings were consistent with the fact that special protection was provided to women as part of pension policies in two thirds of the developed countries and in less than one third of the developing countries. In countries that provided such protection, such policies included homemaker credits, early retirement stipulations and survivor pensions. Among the countries that reported some kind of pension schemes, approximately 88 per cent of persons 60 years of age and older in developed countries and 49 per cent of those in developing countries were covered by formal retirement-related pension schemes.

68. As the numbers of the aged grow and Governments and/or families are unable to meet the needs of all the elderly, Governments may consider targeting the neediest of the elderly for special income security consideration by making available financial assistance. Although most developed countries indicated that they had policies and/or programmes to ensure that minimum benefits were available, less than one fifth of developing countries did so (see table 7).

69. Beyond pensions and family support, many elderly desire, and are able to provide for their own income security through employment. Governments and non-governmental organizations can promote employment through a variety of activities ranging from job training or retraining, job placement, job development and protecting the elderly from age discrimination in employment. The majority

of the countries reported that they had not implemented measures to assist the elderly in finding or returning to active employment. In countries supportive of employment for older persons, the most popular measures included creating full- or part-time employment opportunities, creating income-generating activities, promoting participation in cooperatives, providing job training and promoting the development of micro-enterprises. Only one fifth of the countries reported the availability of policies, programmes and/or legislation to prevent age discrimination in employment (see table 7).

Table 7. Income security and employment for the elderly, based on replies to the 1992 questionnaires on the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing

Reporting issue	Replies from all countries and areas			Replies from developed countries and areas			Replies from developing countries and areas		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
Retirement age									
Flexible	25	71	35	7	16	44	19	55	34
Fixed	45	71	65	9	16	56	36	55	66
Income security									
Universal coverage	22	70	31	10	16	63	12	54	22
Limited coverage	43	70	61	7	16	44	36	54	67
Policy to ensure that minimum benefits are met	24	71	34	14	16	88	10	55	18

	Sponsor of measure								
	Government			Non-governmental organization			Both Government and non-governmental organization		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
Measures to assist the elderly in finding employment									
Creation of full or part-time employment	21	72	29	12	72	17	10	72	14
Income-generating activities	19	72	26	13	72	72	8	72	11
Self-employment schemes	14	72	19	8	72	11	5	72	7
Cooperatives for the elderly	15	72	21	10	72	14	5	72	7
Provision of job training	15	72	21	8	72	11	4	72	6
Promotion of methods to identify suitable employment opportunities	12	72	17	8	72	11	6	72	8
Promotion of the development of micro-enterprises	14	72	19	8	72	11	6	72	8

H. Education

70. In the Plan of Action, it is recommended that the elderly should be involved in education as teachers and transmitters of knowledge and culture; in addition, as a basic human right, education must be made available without discrimination against the elderly. In assessing the impact of educational programmes and measures on the elderly, 30-50 per cent of the countries reported that both Governments and non-governmental organizations had made available adult education, reduced admission fees to cultural institutions, literacy training, physical education and/or rehabilitation, access to community-based educational facilities, community-based recreation-oriented programmes, special workshops in handicrafts and the fine arts, and pre-retirement training. Only 10 countries reported that there were government-sponsored programmes to make available third-age universities (see table 8).

71. The elderly are reported to be moderately active as teachers and/or leaders in education and cultural activities. Between 30 and 50 per cent of the countries reported that Governments and non-governmental organizations used the elderly as teachers and/or leaders in fine arts and/or handicraft classes, as evaluators, recorders and transmitters of cultural heritage and in intergenerational community projects. The elderly were used much less in literacy education, in working with special populations of children or in employment training (see table 8).

72. Almost one half of the Governments reported that they had programmes to educate the general public on the ageing of individuals and populations (see table 8). Where such programmes were available, the Governments reported that they worked primarily with the mass media and with non-governmental organizations. A few countries reported that they worked with the educational systems, mainly at the post-secondary level, to provide education on ageing. Where education on ageing was present, the principal themes emphasized were the health and social needs of the elderly, the elderly as a societal and community resource, intergenerational solidarity and the need to support frail elderly persons. The area receiving the least attention was the special needs of caregivers, especially those in the family.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

A. Activities

73. At the international level, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat serves as the global focal point on ageing. It cooperates with 17 United Nations entities and three major international networks of non-governmental organizations or government entities: the national coordinating machinery on ageing; the international network for information exchange on ageing; and committees for action on ageing, comprising some 60 non-governmental organizations based in New York and at Vienna.

74. For the third review and appraisal, the United Nations entities were asked to indicate the types and levels of activity they had undertaken to assist in implementing the Plan of Action. Fourteen entities submitted replies. Of the six that indicated that they had incorporated programmes on ageing into their medium-term plans, four had programme budgets for ageing-related matters for the current biennium. Twelve of the 14 entities had designated a focal point

Table 8. Education for the elderly, based on replies to the 1992 questionnaires on the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing

	Programme sponsor								
	Government			Non-governmental organization			Both Government and non-governmental organization		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
Educational programmes									
Pre-retirement training	22	72	31	20	72	28	14	72	19
Physical education and/or rehabilitation	25	72	35	20	72	28	13	72	18
Literacy education	27	72	38	19	72	26	12	72	17
Adult education	37	72	51	27	72	38	17	72	24
Establishment of third-age universities	10	72	14	14	72	19	6	72	8
Access to universities	21	72	29	10	72	14	8	72	11
Access to community-based educational facilities	24	72	33	17	72	24	14	72	19
Community-based recreation-oriented programme	26	72	36	27	72	38	18	72	25
Reduced admission fees to cultural institutions	30	72	42	13	72	18	10	72	14
Special workshops in handicrafts	22	72	31	21	72	29	11	72	15
Elderly function as teachers and/or leaders in:									
Evaluation, recording, and transmission of cultural heritage	18	72	25	19	72	26	8	72	11
Training for employment	12	72	17	14	72	19	8	72	11
Intergenerational projects	17	72	24	20	72	28	8	72	11
Education of mentally retarded children	6	72	8	12	72	17	3	72	4
Language classes and cultural activities for immigrants	5	72	7	12	72	17	4	72	6
Art, drama, music, handicraft classes	19	72	26	19	72	26	5	72	7
Literacy education	9	72	13	10	72	14	2	72	3

Reporting issue	Replies from all countries and areas			Replies from developed countries and areas			Replies from developing countries and areas		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
Programme to educate the general public on ageing	33	71	46	8	16	50	25	55	45

for programmes related to ageing. Eleven reported that they had collaborated with non-governmental agencies on projects related to ageing (see table 9). For example, WHO had held joint meetings with HelpAge International, the European Federation for the Welfare of the Elderly and Eurolink Age on health and social policies for the elderly, health promotion and local action for the elderly. Only four of the entities indicated that they would participate in future inter-agency meetings on ageing.

75. The United Nations entities reported that they had been involved in a large number of activities related to ageing since the second review and appraisal. At least one half of them had been involved in research, publications and in the production of reports related to ageing. Other United Nations entities, such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), while not directly executing the activities they funded, had actively supported research on ageing-related issues. Development assistance, advisory services, training and database development had received less attention (see table 9). For those involved, however, including the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the International Institute on Ageing, the level of activity was quite significant.

76. The United Nations entities had given limited attention to the impact of individual and/or population ageing on national budgets and development through activities related to future costs of health care and social services for the elderly and consumption patterns. Only one entity had reported undertaking activities related to the future cost of pensions. Limited attention had been given to projects aimed at integrating the elderly into mainstream development. Where undertaken, the greatest number of such projects had focused on elderly volunteers, income-generating activities, employment training and placement, intergenerational activities and educational and/or cultural programmes for the elderly (see table 9).

77. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs cooperates with an international network of non-governmental organizations to support the implementation of the Plan of Action. While many of those organizations focus their efforts on the elderly, many others serve diverse age and population groups. For the third review and appraisal, 23 non-governmental organizations submitted replies to a questionnaire on their activities. Nine of them reported that they had adopted a plan of action on ageing and seven had set up an internal mechanism to develop and coordinate activities related to ageing. At most one third of the organizations had been involved in research and in other kinds of ageing-related activities, such as issuing reports and other publications and holding meetings. Advisory services and database development were the least often reported activities (see table 10).

78. Few non-governmental organizations reported that they had undertaken activities to identify the impact of ageing on national budgets and/or development. Three organizations reported that they had undertaken activities related to future costs of health care and social services for the elderly and two had investigated the future size and distribution of elderly populations and the future cost of pensions. Non-governmental organizations reported that they had been fairly active in developing and supporting programmes aimed at integrating the elderly into mainstream development activities. Between one third and one half of all the organizations had been engaged in elderly volunteer programmes, intergenerational, educational and cultural programmes, and income-generating and employment training and placement activities for the elderly (see table 10).

Table 9. International activities on ageing: United Nations entities, based on replies to the 1992 questionnaires on the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing

Reporting issue	All United Nations entities		
	Yes	Total	%
Programme on ageing incorporated in current medium-term plan	6	14	43
Focal point on ageing designated	12	14	86
Collaboration with non-governmental organizations on ageing-related projects	11	14	78
Activities on ageing engaged in since 1988			
Research	9	14	64
Publications	7	14	50
Reports	7	14	50
Development assistance	4	14	29
Advisory services	5	14	36
Training	3	14	21
Meetings	4	14	29
Database(s)	4	14	29
Activities undertaken to identify impact of ageing on national budgets or developmental activities			
Future size and distribution of elderly population	3	14	21
Future size of workforce	2	14	14
Future costs of pensions	1	14	7
Future costs of health care and social services for the elderly	4	14	29
Consumption and its structure	4	14	29
Savings and investment	3	14	21
Projects undertaken to integrate the elderly into mainstream development activities			
Income-generating activities	3	14	21
Employment training and placement	3	14	21
Intergenerational activities	3	14	21
Elderly volunteer programmes	4	14	29
Educational and/or cultural programmes	3	14	21
Participation of the elderly in planning and development of services	1	14	7

Table 10. International activities on ageing: non-governmental organizations, based on replies to the 1992 questionnaires on the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing

Reporting issue	All non-governmental organizations		
	Yes	Total	%
Plan of action on ageing adopted	9	23	39
Internal mechanism set up to develop and coordinate ageing-related activities	7	23	30
Activities on ageing implemented since 1988			
Research	7	23	30
Publications	9	23	39
Reports	7	23	30
Development assistance	6	23	26
Advisory services	5	23	22
Training	6	23	26
Meetings	7	23	30
Database(s)	4	23	17
Activities undertaken to identify impact of ageing on national budgets or developmental activities			
Future size and distribution of elderly population	2	23	9
Future size of workforce	1	23	4
Future costs of pensions	2	23	9
Future costs of health care and social services for the elderly	3	23	13
Consumption and its structure	0	23	0
Savings and investment	1	23	4
Projects undertaken to integrate the elderly into mainstream development activities			
Income-generating activities	4	23	17
Employment training and placement	3	23	13
Intergenerational activities	9	23	39
Elderly volunteer programmes	10	23	43
Educational and/or cultural programmes	8	23	35
Participation of the elderly in planning and development of services	7	23	30

79. Many of the non-governmental organizations did not appear to be engaged in substantial activities related to ageing. The level of activity of those that were so engaged, however, was significant. For example, the International Federation of Associations of the Elderly, the International Social Security Association, the American Association of Retired Persons, HelpAge International and the European Federation for the Welfare of the Elderly reported that they had engaged in activities, research, publications, meetings and consultations, elderly volunteer programmes involving ageing-related, income-generating activities and elderly employment development activities.

80. Resource mobilization to assist in the implementation of ageing-related programmes remains an important activity at the international level. The establishment of the Banyan Fund Association was an important step towards mobilizing private resources for ageing programmes. While the Association is still developing its fund-raising strategies, the Trust Fund for Ageing continues to provide seed money for projects at the country, interregional and global levels. The Trust Fund began 1992 with an estimated balance of US$ 203,646. In 1991, the Fund supported nine projects with a total valued of US$ 94,000. Four were in Africa, one was in Latin America and four were interregional or global in nature. Despite its modest resources, the Trust Fund remains the principal mechanism of the United Nations for providing to developing countries specialized technical assistance in the field of ageing.

B. Priorities for cooperation

81. International cooperation is essential to achieving the goals of the Plan of Action. In the questionnaires for the third review and appraisal, one third of the Governments stated that, in developing or implementing their policies and on ageing, they had received international assistance from either governmental or non-governmental organizations. Twenty-one developing countries reported that they had received some international assistance in support of their programmes on ageing. That assistance had come from both international governmental and non-governmental organizations (see table 11).

82. While a limited number of countries had received international assistance to implement their programmes on ageing over the last few years, over three fourths of the developing countries and nearly one third of the developed countries reported that they anticipated a need for international cooperation in the form of direct assistance (technical, educational or financial) in the field of ageing over the next four years. Areas of concern to be dealt with by future international cooperation were identified (see table 11). The few developed countries and areas seeking international assistance accorded high priority to data collection and processing, as well as research and policy analysis on the implications of population ageing for development. For all countries and areas included in the analysis, the issues of concern with regard to international cooperation are listed below, in order or priority:

(a) The exchange of knowledge and experience;

(b) Research and policy analysis on the implications of population ageing for development;

(c) Training of health-care providers for the elderly;

(d) Data collection and processing;

(e) The establishment of income-generating projects for the elderly;

Table 11. International cooperation in the field of ageing, based on replies to the 1992 questionnaires on the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing

Reporting issue	Replies from all countries and areas			Replies from developed countries and areas			Replies from developing countries and areas		
	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%	Yes	Total	%
Government received international assistance for programmes and projects on ageing	23	70	33	2	16	12	21	54	39
Government received assistance from international non-governmental organizations	22	69	32	2	16	12	20	53	38
Government anticipates need for international cooperation in the form of direct assistance in ageing in the next four years	49	68	72	5	16	31	44	52	85

Overall priority areas for international cooperation in the form of direct assistance in ageing in the next four years

	Replies from all countries and areas				
	High priority accorded by the Government		Low priority accorded by the Government		Total
	Yes	%	Yes	%	
Formulation and evaluation of policies and programmes on ageing	28	78	8	22	36
Training of indigenous scholars on ageing	25	68	12	32	37
Training of health-care providers for the elderly	31	78	9	22	40
Data collection and processing	30	79	8	21	38
Research and analysis on the implications of population ageing for development	32	80	8	20	40
Establishment of income-generating projects for the elderly	30	81	7	19	37
Establishment of health-care services for the elderly	30	75	10	25	40
Establishment of educational, cultural and training projects for the elderly	22	59	15	41	37
Establishment of volunteer programmes for the elderly	24	63	14	37	38
Exchange of knowledge and experience	35	83	7	17	42

(f) The establishment of health-care services for the elderly;

(g) The formulation and evaluation of policies and programmes on ageing;

(h) Training of indigenous scholars on ageing;

(i) The establishment of volunteer programmes for the elderly;

(j) The establishment of educational, cultural and training project for the elderly.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

83. The third review and appraisal has provided evidence that some progress has been made in implementing the Plan of Action; however, it has also made it clear that much remains to be done to implement the recommendations of the Plan of Action, particularly in developing countries.

84. To assist in the implementation of the Plan of Action, the United Nations has developed more practical strategies at both the global and country levels. As part of preparations for the tenth anniversary of the World Assembly, a set of global targets for the year 2001 and a guide for setting national targets on ageing (A/47/339) have been elaborated. The General Assembly, in its resolution 47/86, adopted the global targets on ageing for the year 2001 as a practical strategy on ageing and urged Member States to support the strategy and to consult the guide for setting national targets contained therein. The targets, developed in consultation with Governments, United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations, experts and interested individuals, are designed to serve as guideposts to encourage and support the implementation of the Plan of Action in the decade 1992-2001. The targets and the national targets on ageing are explicitly related to the areas reviewed in sections IV and V above and therefore serve as recommendations for dealing with the concerns raised in those sections. The global targets on ageing for the year 2001 and the national targets on ageing are as follows:

Global targets on ageing for the year 2001

1. Support countries in setting national targets on ageing

2. Generate support for integrating ageing into national and international development plans and programmes

3. Generate support for community-based programmes of care and participation of older persons

4. Improve cross-national research on ageing, including harmonization of terminology and methodology

5. Include an item on ageing in international events and meetings of relevance

6. Establish a global network of senior volunteers for social and economic development

7. Facilitate closer cooperation among non-governmental organizations on ageing

8. Facilitate closer cooperation among intergovernmental organizations on ageing.

National targets on ageing

A. Basic national infrastructure targets

A.1 Strengthen or establish a national coordinating mechanism on ageing

A.2 Promote the establishment and effective functioning of organizations of older persons

A.3 Promote the expansion or establishment of intergenerational policies and programmes

A.4 Improve or establish standards with enforcement protocols for elderly care providers, including in-home, community-based and residential settings

A.5 Integrate the issues of ageing into national development plans

A.6 Strengthen or establish national education, training and research activities on ageing

A.7 Ensure that national data collections include information which is gender and age specific

A.8 Produce, disseminate and periodically update a national directory of public and private organizations concerned with ageing and of services and opportunities for and by older persons

A.9 Produce and widely disseminate regular reports on the national ageing situation

A.10 Establish mechanisms to examine and adjust existing legislation and practices for major omissions, contradictions, and discriminations with respect to older persons

B. Health and nutrition targets

B.1 Launch a campaign on "Healthy Ageing" for all

B.2 Establish national indices of health and disability among the aged

B.3 Ensure that primary health care is available and accessible to the elderly

B.4 Encourage the establishment of a technical aids supply system

B.5 Provide adequate nutrition, especially for the elderly at risk, including such groups as refugees, victims of disasters and those in isolation

B.6 Strengthen or establish a public health programme ensuring accessibility to clean water and adequate sanitation for the elderly

C. Housing and living environment targets

C.1 Provide support for the elderly so they may continue living in their own homes as long as possible or choose alternative accommodation if their home is no longer suitable or desired

C.2 Provide barrier-free and community integrated accommodation and public facilities for the elderly in cities, towns and villages

C.3 Promote community education on personal security in the home and community

C.4 Provide and enhance accessibility and mobility for the elderly to work, social and health services and leisure facilities

D. Family targets

D.1 Develop and enhance skills whereby older men and women may fulfil their roles as family leaders, counsellors, and care-givers

D.2 Promote, enhance and support family care-giving

D.3 Establish support groups for families with special problems and special care-giving needs, such as those having to deal with dementia and physical disabilities

D.4 Integrate the issue of ageing into national activities for the International Year of the Family (1994)

E. Education and media targets

E.1 Launch information, education and communication campaigns on ageing to promote positive images of ageing and ageing as a subject of general social relevance in which everyone participates

E.2 Incorporate information on ageing in primary and secondary school curricula, as well as specialized information and courses on ageing in post-secondary level social, health, political, religious, economic, architecture, planning and design studies, among others

E.3 Provide key roles for older persons as voluntary or paid resource persons in literacy programmes, public awareness campaigns and in education programmes on cultural traditions and heritage, the environment, substance abuse and other areas

E.4 Provide literacy education and continuing education for older persons

E.5 Integrate the subject and activities of ageing into national events and meetings

E.6 Disseminate and apply the United Nations Principles for Older Persons

F. Social welfare targets

F.1 Enact legislation to ensure equitable access for older persons to social welfare services

F.2 Examine and determine the most equitable and efficient mix of public and private incentives which encourage the development and provision of services and opportunities for older persons

F.3 Give recognition to services providers, including informal care-givers of older persons, by providing training, adequate compensation and a positive public image

F.4 Strengthen or establish community-based continuum of care programmes

G. Employment/income security targets

G.1 Institute a national programme to promote productive ageing

G.2 Establish, strengthen and implement schemes or strategies to provide income-security for all older persons at levels appropriate to the national economic and social infrastructure

G.3 Establish a "safety net" where pension and other schemes do not exist or are inadequate

G.4 Examine options available to older workers for flexible and graduate withdrawal from, and extension of, formal employment in accord with national and social infrastructures and resources

Notes

1/ See Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna, 26 July to 6 August 1982 (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI.

2/ Profiles of National Coordinating Mechanisms on Ageing (ST/CSDHA/13).

3/ The World Ageing Situation 1991 (ST/CSDHA/14), part one, chap. II.

4/ United States of America, Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Global aging: comparative indicators and future trends" (September 1991).

5/ United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 1992 (New York, Oxford University Press, 1992), chap. III.

Annex

COUNTRIES AND AREAS, UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUBMITTED REPLIES a/ TO THE 1992 QUESTIONNAIRES ON THE THIRD REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON AGEING

Countries and areas

Albania
Argentina
Australia
Bahrain
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Bolivia
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo b/
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Curaçao
Cyprus b/
Czechoslovakia
Denmark
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Finland
Germany
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Guyana
Hong Kong
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica b/
Japan
Jordan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liechtenstein
Malaysia
Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal b/
Qatar
Saint Lucia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
United Republic of Tanzania b/
Uruguay
Viet Nam
Zambia

United Nations entities

Economic Commission for Europe
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Population Fund
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
International Institute on Ageing
International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
International Labour Organization b/
World Health Organization
World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe

Non-governmental organizations

American Association of Retired Persons
Associated Country Women of the World
Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities)
European Federation for the Welfare of the Elderly
European Medical Agency
Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants
HelpAge International
International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities
International Association of Lions Clubs - Lions Club International
International Association of Schools of Social Work
International Council of Jewish Women
International Council of Nurses
International Federation of Associations of the Elderly
International Federation of University Women
International Federation on Aging
International Road Safety Organization
International Social Security Association
Medical Women's International Association
OXFAM (Oxford Famine Relief Organization)
RSVP International
Soroptimist International
World Federation of Methodist Women
World Federation of United Nations Associations

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a/ Some replies were received too late to be included in the present list.

b/ Reply was received too late to be analysed in the present report.